

# JONATHAN EDWARDS CENTER LAUNCHES ONLINE ARCHIVE: <http://edwards.yale.edu>

by Kenneth Minkema, Executive Editor of *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*

**J**ONATHAN EDWARDS (1703-1758), the Connecticut-born pastor, theologian, revivalist, missionary to Native Americans, and college president, is widely regarded as America's most original philosopher as well as a religious figure of paramount significance. Internationally known during his lifetime for his involvement in the movement known as the "Great Awakening" and afterwards for emotional sermons such as *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*, Edwards was also respected for the acumen he demonstrated in philosophical works that sought to adapt his inherited Puritan heritage to the Enlightenment. Edwards's writings provided inspiration for revolutionary thought known, especially in the hands of his disciples, as the "New Divinity." His ethical thought was instrumental to the abolitionist movement and attractive to African American Calvinists. Through Edwards's work in the mission fields, Native groups espoused a synthetic form of his theology, and white missionaries exported Edwardsean piety on a global basis. Regarded as a pivotal literary figure himself, Edwards influenced key American writers. Not least, Edwards is the fountainhead for American evangelicalism and revivalism, which are formative and formidable elements of American life to this day.

To encourage broader and deeper readership and study of this intriguing man, to fully understand the nature of his life and thought within the context of his times, and to assess his influence, both positive and negative, it is essential to make available the entirety of his writings. *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, published by Yale University Press, is presently completing a twenty-six volume series containing Edwards's published treatises and essays along with selected manuscripts. However, an equal amount still remains unpublished, much of which has already been transcribed, but remains filed at the Edwards Edition's offices at Yale Divinity School. To remedy this, the Edwards *Works* has entered a new phase: producing a comprehensive digitized edition of Edwards's writings. The Edwards Online Archive will utilize the most current standards for electronic editions and provide a broad range of secondary and other resources to assist readers and researchers.

The website (<http://edwards.yale.edu>), which should be fully operational by January 2006, will be a highly innovative, "best-of-class" research tool. It already contains a number of extremely useful bibliographic and textual re-



sources to enable deeper research and study into the Edwards corpus. Our goal with the site is to create a research interface with which a user of any level of interest could have a meaningful, valuable interaction with Edwards's life and writings. Our first injection of texts, about 25,000 pages, will include roughly the first half of Edwards's extant sermon corpus, including several hundred sermons that have never before been published. All told, we estimate an archive of about 100,000 pages consisting of both primary and secondary sources—not only Edwards's large corpus with introductions and annotations but also timelines, glossaries, tables of contents, bibliographies, and other aids. A great benefit of the Edwards project is that the great majority of this content, now stored at our offices, is ready to be mounted.

The Edwards Online Archive will present in digitized form not only the texts of the twenty-six letterpress volumes published by Yale University Press, but also tens of thousand of pages of previously unpublished transcripts. All of Edwards's extant writings—treatises, essays, notebooks, sermons, correspondence, church documents, and personalia—as well as items by other authors and scholars that shed light on him will be included. The Online Archive will feature XML-tagged documents and a customized search engine that will enable research at a sophisticated level through multiple and overlapping criteria, in conformity to standards developed by the Text Encoding Initiative and the Model Editions Project. The Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale will maintain the archive by providing textual oversight and encouraging readership and research of Edwards by making available audio, visual, digital, and

printed resources such as timelines, chronologies, and bibliographies, developing teaching tools for different settings, and sponsoring fellowships and conferences.

Our staff includes general editor Harry Stout, executive editor Kenneth Minkema, and assistant editor Caleb Maskell '04 M.Div., along with a team of graduate student assistants and transcribers. The staff functions not only as an editorial team but also as the coordinators of the Edwards Center. To facilitate scholarship on Edwards, the Center is sponsoring three fellows during the 2005-06 academic year: Michael McClenahan of Oxford University, who is writing a doctoral thesis on Edwards and the doctrine of justification; Ava Chamberlain of Wright State University, who is beginning a project on Edwards and gender; and James F. Cooper, Jr., of Oklahoma State University, who is exploring Edwards and church government in colonial New England. In addition, the Center is sponsoring, in conjunction with Wipf & Stock Publishers, a Jonathan Edwards Classics Series, which will make available landmark works on Edwards and early American religious history that have gone out of print. The Center staff has also edited a volume of essays entitled *Jonathan Edwards at 300*, forthcoming from University Press of America, which makes available papers delivered at the Edwards Tercentennial Conference at the Library of Congress.

Please be sure to visit the Edwards website and sign up as a beta tester. We welcome inquiries, which can be directed to [edwards@yale.edu](mailto:edwards@yale.edu).



# THE LATOURETTE INITIATIVE FOR THE DOCUMENTATION OF WORLD CHRISTIANITY

by Paul F. Stuehrenberg



THE LATOURETTE INITIATIVE IS a proactive program to preserve and provide access to the documentation of world Christianity. It provides funding for the microfilming of published and archival resources documenting the history of Christian missions and the life of the churches in countries where missionaries served.

The Initiative is named for Kenneth Scott Latourette (1884-1968), who was D. Willis James Professor of Missions and World Christianity at Yale Divinity School. Latourette was instrumental in changing the focus of the Day Missions Collection at Yale from a resource for training missionaries to a collection documenting the history of Christian missions. The endowment he established to further the work of the Day Missions Library provides the funding for the Latourette Initiative.

Projects funded by the Latourette Initiative since its inception in 1999 include:

- World War II-era records of the World Council of Churches (WCC)
- World Student Christian Federation Archives, held by the WCC
- WCC Programme to Combat Racism
- WCC Dialogue with People of Living Faiths
- "Old Believers" monographs, held at the Russian National Library
- Regions Beyond Missionary Union Archives, held by the University of Edinburgh
- Sudan United Mission Archives (University of Edinburgh)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America mission archives

Additional microfilming projects in Australia, India, Ireland, South Africa, and Uganda are currently under discussion.

We welcome proposals from libraries, archival repositories, mission agencies, and others with collections of such documentation, for projects that would help carry forward the work of the Latourette Initiative. We are particularly interested in ways that the Latourette Initiative might provide "seed money" that would leverage other resources to preserve and provide access to this documentation.